

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for determination and correction of laser induced CCD camera or CCD array lines degradation comprising the steps of:

employing a laser to emit radiation having a finely adjustable wavelength;

employing a spectrometer to determine the wavelength of the emitted laser radiation;

projecting interference fringes produced by said spectrometer onto a CCD line formed by a plurality of camera pixels;

correcting the sensitivity of each camera pixel to compensate for damage to each camera pixel caused by said radiation;

a) correcting said sensitivity by shifting the wavelength of said radiation by small, incremental steps;

b) recording employing a CCD camera to record each interference pattern after each wavelength shift by a CCD camera;

c) summation of summing all recorded interference pattern patterns;

d) calculation of calculating an average interference pattern R(i);

e) evaluation of evaluating the sensitivity of each individual pixel i of the CCD camera.

2. (cancelled).

3. (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) A The method as in of claim 1, wherein further comprising the step of correcting spatially localized damages damage of the imaging optics projecting a pattern on the CCD camera or CCD array are corrected lines.

5. (currently amended) A The method as in of claim 1, wherein the laser is an further comprising the step of employing an ArF or KrF or F₂ laser.

6. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of employing a KrF laser.

7. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of employing an F₂ laser.

8. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of evaluating said sensitivity of each individual pixel by dividing said average interference pattern R(i) by a mean of said average interference pattern R(i) where said mean is the sum of all average interference patterns divided by the number of pixels, said evaluation determining a percentage loss of sensitivity

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9. (new) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of increasing the sensitivity of said CCD camera by an amount that compensates for the loss in sensitivity determined by said evaluation.

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